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Dziennik Polski.PLAN GIGANTIC METALLURGICAL PLANT

The combined annual production of Polish metallurgical plants during peak years before 1939 was about 1,400,000 tons of steel. Poland was far behind other western and central European countries in steel production. Czechoslovakia produced 2,300,000 tons of steel a year during the same period. Despite this underdevelopment, the metallurgical industry in Poland was often faced with the problem of finding markets for its surplus. Therefore, with the exception of the Stalowa Wola steel-refining plant and one blast furnace in the Kosciuszko plant, the industry made no important investments during this period. During the occupation, the industry was exploited by the Germans and there was no thought of modernization or expansion.

To insure the realization of production plans and investment plans, the Three-Year Plan provided for the rebuilding and expansion of Polish metallurgy. In the last year of the plan, the level of steel production was 60 percent higher than the prewar level. However, iron metallurgy must develop further to satisfy the growing economic needs of the country and to realize the industrial development envisaged in the Six-Year Economic Plan for all branches of the national economy.

Several hundred billion zlotys have been assigned in the Six-Year Plan for investments to develop metallurgy in Poland. The proposed investment funds are to be used to expand the existing metallurgical plants to the point of doubling their production, to build the Nowa Huta, a new metallurgical plant in the environs of Krakow, and to start preparations for a new plant, Nowa Huta No 2, for the production of high-grade steel.

Nowa Huta No 1 will exceed total prewar production and, in basic products, will be capable of producing as much as all the existing Polish metallurgical plants combined. In construction and installations, it will be the most modern plant in the world. An urban development for a population of 100,000 is being designed in connection with the plant. It will be built on modern lines according to an adequately planned urban program, and will be the first large and entirely new working-class city in Poland.

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The Nowa Huta project requires a special planning bureau staffed by hundreds of well-trained and experienced engineers and economists. None of the Polish bureaus, separately or jointly, not even the Bibrohut which numbers about 500 engineers and technicians, were in a position to undertake a project of this size, especially since other projects envisaged in the plan also had to be completed.

On 26 January 1948, an agreement was reached between Poland and the USSR which provided that the USSR supply Poland with industrial equipment including basic materials needed for the realization of the Six-Year Plan, especially equipment for the Nowa Huta and complete engineering specifications for its construction. The specifications, which are being prepared by the best Soviet technicians and a personnel of many hundred workers, are already well advanced. A committee of experts will be appointed this year to study the preliminary plans.

The Bureau of Workers' Settlements is in charge of preparing the plans for the workers' town. A special workshop staffed by several hundred architects, building engineers, and draftsmen has been established to plan the residential buildings, public buildings, services, schools, hospitals, transportation, etc. The basic plans have already been worked out and are being studied by a committee of experts of the State Economic Planning Commission.

The building of the Nowa Huta and the workers' city, the chief investment project of the Six-Year Plan, will be started by the end of 1950 and completed in 1957.

The actual work of building the industrial plants and the workers' city will be done by Polish workers, technicians, and engineers. In building the gigantic Nowa Huta, the most advanced methods will be used, auxiliary and service plants, including brickyards, quarries, prefabrication combines, and firebrick plants, will be developed and a new revolutionary building technique adopted.

Many construction and assembly plants of the Ministries of Construction, Heavy Industry, Transportation, Mining and Power, and the Betonstal and Mostostal are cooperating in the preliminary work.

A new state enterprise, the Nowa Huta, was created to coordinate the work of building. The Building Committee under the direction of Vice-Premier Hilary Minc, which was established last year by the Council of Ministers, is the supreme authority over the entire project.

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